



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 December 2003

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- FOX News reports a man carrying a razor blade and a hacksaw blade in his shoe was arrested at Miami International Airport as he tried to pass through security checks on Monday. (See item [6](#))
- The Associated Press reports the heightened terror alert is setting in motion extensive security plans in all 50 states — as officials try to protect everything from power plants to football bowl games. (See item [18](#))
- The Associated Press reports that an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5 rocked the Central Coast of California late Monday morning. (See item [25](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: HIGH, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *December 21, Reuters* — AEP says nuclear plant unit briefly in emergency plan. American Electric Power Co. (AEP) said a unit at its Cook Nuclear Plant, located along Lake Michigan's eastern shoreline, briefly entered into an emergency plan on Friday, December 19, following an internal filter leak. The company said in a release that an "unusual event," the lowest classification level, was declared for about 90 minutes until the filter was bypassed and the leak isolated. AEP said a leak Friday evening in a filter for a system

that supplies water to the reactor coolant pump seals at its Cook Nuclear Plant Unit 2 caused a brief entry into the plant's emergency plan. AEP said the unit was at 100 percent power when the 30 gallon-per-minute leak was found and power was not reduced. **The company said no radioactive water was released from the system or to the atmosphere**, and its Cook Unit 1 was not affected and remains at full power.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=4028310>

2. *December 20, Seattle Times* — **Natural-gas trunk line through Washington state at risk of cracking. The pipeline company that supplies most of Washington's natural gas was ordered on Friday, December 19, to all but shut down its trunk line from Canada to Oregon after federal safety inspectors determined frailties in the 268-mile pipe would "likely result in serious harm to life, property and the environment."** After the 46-year-old line ruptured twice in six months, the federal Office of Pipeline Safety Friday told Williams Northwest Pipeline it must replace every section of line it hopes to use, or prove it's resistant to cracking. "We felt this particular pipeline needed immediate attention and needed to be replaced in various sections," said Damon Hill, Pipeline Safety spokesperson. Since the company has a second, newer line 20 feet away running parallel between Sumas, Whatcom County, and Washougal, on the Columbia River in Clark County, the order is not expected to affect the flow of natural gas to homes or businesses.

Source: [http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2001819908\\_p\\_pipeline20m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2001819908_p_pipeline20m.html)

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

3. *December 22, Federal Computer Week* — **Work starts on hypersonic weapons vehicle. Officials at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Air Force announced on Monday, December 22, that nine contractors have started work on a hypersonic vehicle for attacking targets thousands of miles from the United States.** The project is part of the Force Application and Launch from the Continental United States (FALCON) program. **DARPA and Air Force officials are developing concepts to create a vehicle that will eventually be able to fly in low Earth orbit at speeds faster than sound to deliver a payload of munitions up to 9,000 nautical miles, about 10,350 miles.** The near term goals are set for 2010 and the longer-term goals are for 2025. The Marines are working on a similar system called the Small Unit Space Transport and Insertion (SUSTAIN) manned vehicle, which has a target delivery date of 2025 and is meant to deploy Marines anywhere around the globe in two hours without violating the airspace of countries along the way.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1222/web-darpa-12-22-03.asp>

4. *December 22, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-112: Military Readiness: DoD Needs to Reassess Program Strategy, Funding Priorities, and Risks for Selected Equipment**

**(Report).** The General Accounting Office (GAO) was asked to assess the condition of key equipment items and to determine if the services have adequate plans for sustaining, modernizing, or replacing them. To address these questions, they selected 25 major equipment items, and determined (1) their current condition, (2) whether the services have mapped out a program strategy for these items, (3) whether current and projected funding is consistent with these strategies, and (4) whether these equipment items are capable of fulfilling their wartime missions. **GAO recommends that the Secretary of Defense reassess program strategies and funding priorities for key equipment items to ensure that the equipment items are sustained until replacement items are fielded. The department should also highlight for the Congress risks involved in sustaining these equipment items and steps the department is taking to address those risks.** In its written comments on a draft of this report, the department partially concurred that it needed to reassess program strategies and funding priorities, but did not agree that it needed to provide the Congress with additional information on the potential risks. Report: [www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-112](http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-112). Source: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04112high.pdf>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *December 22, The Post–Crescent (WI)* — **E-mail scam spurs warning. An Appleton, WI, woman is the victim of an apparent credit card scam that saw someone attempting to access her account through a Russian bank. Police are warning residents not to open an unsolicited e-mail from PayPal.com.** The e-mail contains the comment "Do not Reply@paypal.com" and a subject line that says "Important" followed by a series of letters. PayPal is an Internet service, which provides shopper security for online services. Sgt. Neal Rabas said police are investigating a complaint from a woman who clicked on the e-mail's attachment and allowed it to update her PayPal account. Rabas said that gave an unknown person access to her credit card information. **The next day the woman's credit card company alerted her that someone at a bank in Moscow had used the account.** Source: [http://www.wisinfo.com/postcrescent/news/archive/local\\_13798794.shtml](http://www.wisinfo.com/postcrescent/news/archive/local_13798794.shtml)

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## **Transportation Sector**

6. *December 22, FOX News* — **Man arrested at Miami airport with blades in shoe. A man carrying a razor blade and a hacksaw blade in his shoe was arrested at Miami International Airport as he tried to pass through security checks Monday, Miami–Dade police said. Alarms sounded when McIntyre tried to pass through an airport metal detector at about 6:20 a.m. Airport screeners asked him to remove his shoes and found the blades, officials said.** McIntyre, who was traveling with his wife and children, told authorities he forgot the blades were in his shoe, said Detective Joey Giordano, a spokesman for the Miami–Dade police. It was not known if McIntyre has an attorney. There was a greater law enforcement presence in the airport given the holiday travel rush, and the Department of Homeland Security's decision to raise the national threat level.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.106396.00.html>

7. *December 22, The Canadian Press (Vancouver)* — **No health threat in unidentified substance that snarled air traffic.** White powder found at Vancouver International Airport late last week is not toxic and does not pose a public health threat, the B.C. Centre for Disease Control confirmed yesterday. "They did six culture tests and it's not biological — it's not a threat to public safety," RCMP Cpl. Peter Thiessen said of the series of culture-plate tests conducted by the centre. "We're going to be doing chemical tests ourselves in our RCMP lab." The exact nature of the substance has not yet been determined. **The powder, which was discovered in an envelope shortly after 1 p.m. Friday, December 19, in the U.S. Customs area, caused a security alert that delayed flight departures for some 3,000 holiday airline passengers bound for the United States. "About 25 flights were affected, one was cancelled and the remaining 24 flights got out," said Airport Authority spokesman Ralph Eastman.** About 40 employees of U.S. Customs and Immigration were held under quarantine during the investigation. The envelope contained a threatening letter and originated from outside Canada. At this point, say police, it is not believed to be an act of terrorism.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/vancouver/news/story.asp?id=45D8C5CF-F274-47AD-BE78-9D09087A6D18>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

8. *December 22, Washington Post* — **Postal facility reopens. The retail area of Washington, DC's central mail-processing facility will open Monday for the first time since it was contaminated with anthrax and shuttered in October 2001.** The reopened retail area will provide service to customers in need of a package shipped or a book of stamps though for now the packages will be sent to other facilities for final shipment. The facility on Brentwood Road is expected to begin processing mail again next month, part of a phase-in that began two weeks ago. The first day of retail service since the anthrax attacks comes after a two-year sanitization effort. About 120 managers and administrative staff began working at the facility December 5, and by Saturday, 200 more workers will report to work there, Postal Service spokesperson Deborah Yackley said. **The building is expected to be fully operational, with 1,700 employees, by the end of January, Yackley said.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20248-2003Dec 21.html>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

9. *December 22, Agricultural Research Service* — **Early diagnosis of sugar beet disease. To spot early signs of leaf spot disease in sugar beets, an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientist has developed a method to detect the fungus, *Cercospora beticola*, even in plants lacking any symptoms.** The fungus behind this disease reduces both yield and sugar content in the beets. Sugar beets provide the U.S. with about half of its sugar supply. But the pathogen doesn't always announce itself. Plant pathologist Robert T. Lartey, along with ARS colleagues,

created the pathogen–detecting protocol. It uses real–time polymerase chain reaction (PCR). **The new protocol drastically reduces the time needed to isolate and subculture the pathogen and to purify the DNA for amplification, from a task traditionally requiring up to two weeks to one that can be accomplished in a single day.** The PCR method can be used to determine how early in the growing season *C. beticola* may infect nearby plants, and spread to sugar beets. Early detection provides a better forecasting of the disease and allows for more precise fungicide applications. Larthey anticipates the use of the new protocol for disease management in a range of plant pathogen applications. **Scientists are interested in the technique for identifying diseases in wheat.**

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

10. *December 22, USAgNet* — **South Korea's bird flu spreading. Nearly a million chickens and ducks will be slaughtered across South Korea to combat a highly contagious strain of bird flu that has spread across the country and could also infect humans, the South Korean government said on Monday.** Avian influenza, which in rare cases can be deadly to humans, has caused poultry sales to tumble as authorities confirm outbreaks at farm after farm across the country. "To contain the spread of the disease, we have decided to conduct intensified disinfection measures," a statement from the agriculture ministry said on Monday. **Since authorities last Monday confirmed the first bird flu among chickens at a farm 50 miles southeast of Seoul, cases have since been discovered at eight more poultry farms.** Six other farms are being tested for suspected infections. Faced with the rapid increase in cases, agriculture authorities have raised slaughter targets to about 950,000 birds among the 100 million chickens and eight million ducks in the poultry sector. So far, one third of the target poultry stocks have been destroyed and buried.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=1375&yr=2003>

11. *December 22, Minnesota Ag Connection* — **Invasive insects found in pine cones. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Friday confirmed that it has found invasive insects in decorative pine cones imported from India. Based on similar discoveries in several states, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and national retailers recently recalled all pine cones from India and all packages of potpourri containing pine cones from India.** The pine cones affected by the recall were sold under multiple names, but were distributed by American Oak Preserving, of Judson, IN, and Candlelight, of Cincinnati, OH. Initial examinations of the infested pine cones revealed a moth species that was not known to exist in the United States. **Experts believe the moth could be harmful since it is a wood–boring pest that feeds on pine cones and hinders the plants reproduction.** There is no evidence that the invasive pests pose any human health threat. In addition to the national recall on infested pine cones, USDA is requiring mandatory fumigation of all pine cones from India entering U.S. ports of entry.

Source: <http://www.minnesotaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=1111 &yr=2003>

12. *December 19, Reuters* — **Testing problems found for biotech grains. Laboratories measuring the amount of genetically modified grain mixed into supplies of U.S. corn and other crops routinely provide inaccurate results, federal grain inspection officials said on Friday.** The problem lies with methods used to detect the amount of gene–altered material mixed in with corn and other grains. The issue is critical to international grain trading as countries that don't want biotech grain are setting very specific standards on how much

accidental mixing they will tolerate. **"The biggest problem we have right now is we can really just estimate the quantity of bio material in there,"** said Steve Tanner, director of technical services for the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), which operates the federal grain inspection service. **In April, European Union member states will start requiring labeling of foods and grains that contain more than 0.9 percent of genetically modified materials.** Tanner said recent examinations of commercial and government grain testing laboratories found they failed to produce consistent results when measuring the biotech material in control grain samples. Tolerance levels of one percent or less have been set by India, Australia, and Poland, South Korea allows up to three percent, and Japan, Russia, and Taiwan allow up to five percent.

Source: [http://www.agriculture.com/worldwide/IDS/2003-12-19T215022Z\\_01\\_N19552767\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_FOOD-BIOTECH.html](http://www.agriculture.com/worldwide/IDS/2003-12-19T215022Z_01_N19552767_RTRIDST_0_FOOD-BIOTECH.html)

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## **Food Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Water Sector**

13. *December 21, Tallahassee Democrat* — **Water officials looking at desalination. There could be 10 new seawater desalination plants built in Florida by 2025, six along the Atlantic Coast and four along the Gulf Coast, according to Florida's water-management districts.** "As the years go by, it will play a more and more important role," said Malissa Dillon, regional communications coordinator for the St. Johns River Water Management District in Palatka. In addition to meeting new water-supply needs, desalination also could reduce the need for pumping water from aquifers, lakes, and rivers. Several technologies can be used in desalination. One is reverse osmosis, which involves forcing salt water through a series of filters and membranes. Only the fresh water is pushed through. Other desalination technologies include distillation, which involves heating salt water, capturing the steam and converting it to fresh water. Cost likely will be a factor in whether desalination is used in the U.S. and elsewhere, says Mark Rosegrant, director of the Environment and Production Technology Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute. "It really is a drinking water solution and is limited to countries that are relatively well off and extremely dry," he said. . Source: <http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/democrat/news/local/7541048.htm>

14. *December 20, Arizona Republic* — **Arizona water law halts new development.** For the first time in Arizona, state laws designed to ensure water supplies and stop land fraud are bringing development to a halt. **Arizona officials recently notified three private water providers in Fountain Hills, Apache Junction, and Pinal County that they do not appear to have a required 100-year assured water supply to serve new housing and other construction.** Four municipal water departments in rural Arizona also are on notice. The notices from the Arizona Department of Water Resources prevent the sale of new homes or commercial developments not yet recorded with a county. In Fountain Hills, the notification has halted



nearly a dozen developments. Five water Active Management Areas in Arizona, are responsible for implementing regulations intended to conserve water. Water providers within the management areas file annual water usage and needs reports with the state water department, which then performs its own analysis and issues a notice if it projects an inadequate supply. **Without an ensured 100-year water supply, the Arizona Department of Real Estate will not record land plats, or subdivision plans. If the subdivision plans cannot be recorded, the property cannot be sold.**

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/1220water20.html>

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## **Public Health Sector**

15. *December 22, Nature (UK)* — **Blood transfusion linked to mad cow disease death in UK. A patient who died from the human form of mad cow disease may have caught the illness from a blood transfusion.** It is not possible to tell whether the patient caught the fatal disease, called variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (vCJD), from the transfusion or contracted it by eating infected meat. **The incident is the first case of "possible transmission" through transfusion, something that scientists have long known to be a possibility.** There is no blood test for vCJD, so blood banks cannot check their stocks for signs of the disease. But precautions are in place to minimize the risk of transmission. U.S. and Canadian blood banks refuse donations from British citizens or those who have spent a significant amount of time in the UK. In Britain, transfusions are stripped of white blood cells, which are thought to aid disease transmission. The donor in this case gave blood in 1996, before the precautions were put in place. He fell ill and died in 1999; the recipient of his blood died in autumn this year. Fifteen other people have received contaminated blood. Five of the 15 patients were given the transfusions after the white blood cells had been removed. The other ten received them before the precaution was implemented.

Source: <http://www.nature.com/nsu/031215/031215-14.html>

16. *December 19, Associated Press* — **Torn trash bag linked to SARS case. A torn plastic trash bag that leaked liquid contaminated with the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus was the likely cause of Taiwan's first infection in five months, investigators said.** The bag was handled by a 44-year-old scientist who apparently became infected in his military laboratory. The mishap happened when the scientist was cleaning his Taipei lab on December 6, four days before he developed a fever and other SARS symptoms. When the scientist found the ripped bag, he assumed it had been leaking for several days and he placed it on a trash cart, said investigator Chang Shang-tsun. "The investigators think the researcher thought the virus had already lost its effectiveness." **Two positive samples of the virus were found in the lab during an inspection Thursday, he said. One was on the handle of an alcohol spray bottle, and the other was on a light switch on a glass cabinet that contained materials used in experiments.** So far, no other SARS infections have been reported, even though the scientist traveled to Singapore on December 7 after being exposed to the virus. More than 100 people who had close contact with him in Taiwan and Singapore have been quarantined.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/HEALTH/12/19/taiwan.sars.ap/index.html>

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## Government Sector

17. *December 22, Department of Homeland Security* — **Homeland Security appoints Dr. Elizabeth Lautner as Plum Island's new Director.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology division announced in early December that it has selected Dr. Elizabeth A. Lautner as the Center Director of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) in Long Island, NY. **"Dr. Lautner's leadership will ensure the success of Plum Island as a critical national asset that provides vital research, support and protection to our nation's agriculture system," said Maureen McCarthy, director, Office of Research and Development.** The U.S. Department Homeland Security's Science and Technology division serves as the primary research and development arm of the Department, utilizing our nation's scientific and technological resources to provide federal, state and local officials with the technology and capabilities to protect the homeland. On June 1, 2003, Plum Island Animal Disease Center transitioned to the Department's Office of Science and Technology to focus on protecting the nation from agricultural terrorism. Plum Island scientists conduct research to protect the health of livestock on farms across America from high-consequence foreign animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease.  
Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=2690>

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## Emergency Services Sector

18. *December 22, Associated Press* — **Cities, states step up security amid Orange Alert.** The government raised the threat level to orange Sunday, the second-highest level, indicating a high risk of terror attack. **The heightened terror alert is setting in motion extensive security plans in all 50 states -- as officials try to protect everything from power plants to football bowl games.** National guard troops in Pennsylvania are deploying to the state's five nuclear power plants. In Colorado, 2,500 National Guard troops have been told to be prepared to move with 30 minutes' notice. Mandatory checkpoints for trucks have been heightened at bridges including the Golden Gate Bridge and spans into New York City. With college football's championship game just two weeks away, officials in Louisiana are thinking about revising security. The Sugar Bowl in New Orleans will be played January 4. Major cities and transportation hubs from coast to coast have increased security measures. New York City is putting more officers on the streets, establishing checkpoints at bridges and tunnels, and patrolling waterways. Patrols have increased at Florida's Port Everglades, and in Philadelphia the FBI has set up a command post to receive tips. At Boston's Logan Airport, officials have added more state police. Meanwhile, the State Department has issued a worldwide caution for U.S. citizens overseas.  
Source: <http://www.nbc4.tv/news/2719760/detail.html>

19. *December 22, Associated Press* — **Downtown Washington, DC street closed due to suspicious powder.** Fifteenth Street in Northwest D.C. was closed Monday afternoon between M and K streets as the DC Fire investigated a suspicious white powder. **Spokesman Alan Etter said that shortly before 6 a.m. Monday morning, a truck left a dumpster outside The**



**Washington Post building — even though no construction is going on there. A powdery substance, along with papers, were found inside. A Hazmat team was testing them to see what they are.**

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/1203/114798.html>

- 20. *December 22, San Francisco Chronicle* — Bay Area security patrols increase in terror alert.** Bay Area bridges, ports and roads came under heightened security Sunday moments after Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge raised the national terror alert to its second-highest level, citing possible terrorist attacks that could rival September 11 in scope. **At the request of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the California Highway Patrol set up two checkpoints on Highway 101 to divert and inspect large trucks and trailers before entering San Francisco.** The checkpoints were set up at the Spencer Avenue off-ramp north of the Golden Gate Bridge, and at the Sierra Point Parkway exit just north of Candlestick Park. "That way we can check all trucks that would come over the Golden Gate or the Bay Bridge," CHP Sgt. Wayne Ziese said. **All truck drivers with a load of hazardous materials will have their rigs inspected.** "We need to make sure none of those trucks carrying chemicals has been hijacked," Ziese said. The CHP doubled the number of patrols cruising on all Bay Area bridges and added undercover officers to walk the Golden Gate in response to the government's decision to raise the terror alert level to orange. The CHP also sent patrols to the ports of Oakland and San Francisco to inspect cargo containers, **and undercover officers and bomb-sniffing dogs will keep a watch at truck-weighting stations along the highways.**

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2003/12/22/MNG0M3S8VO1.DTL>

- 21. *December 22, Associated Press* — United Nations puts security staff on High Alert.** Assistant Secretary-General Andrew Toh, who is in charge of security, sent an e-mail to some 5,000 staff at UN headquarters in New York urging them to go about their normal business but remain vigilant. Tom Ridge, head of the Department of Homeland Security, announced Sunday that the United States was raising the national terror alert warning to "Code Orange," or high risk, from "Code Yellow" after warnings that the al Qaeda terror network may be plotting attacks against the United States during the holidays. In his note to UN staff, Toh said, "Accordingly, security officers in the United Nations have been placed on high alert and we seek the continued cooperation of staff and delegations in this regard." **The UN headquarters overlooking Manhattan's East River was a terrorist target after the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.** In a videotaped address aired two months after the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York, al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden accused the world body of siding with the United States and called UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan a "criminal."

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uslatest/story/0,1282,-3537863,00.html>

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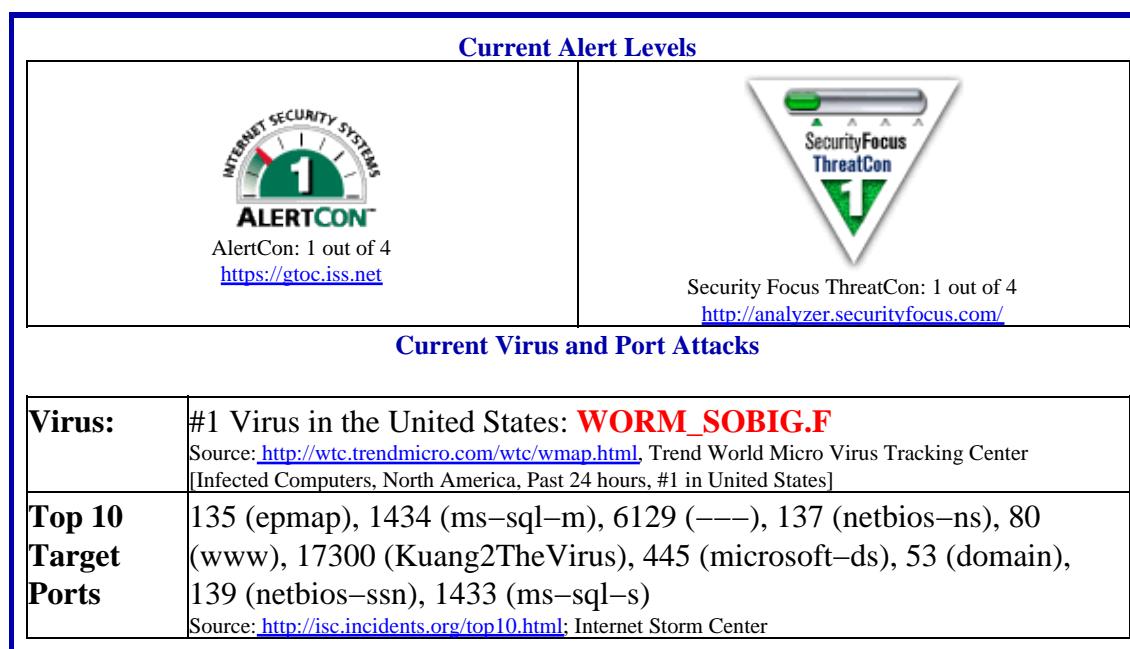
## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

- 22. *December 22, CNET News.com* — New open-source patch released for IE.** A Website that published a third-party patch to fix a security hole in Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) has had to re-issue the patch Saturday, December 20, after the original was found to contain a buffer overflow exploit. This exploit, which allowed an attacker to take control of the patched PC,

might have been far more damaging than the flaw that the patch was trying to fix. According to Openwares, only about 6,500 people downloaded the original patch. **Security experts warned people against installing it last week, saying that aside from trust issues, the patch author would not have had access to IE source code and so the patch could interfere with future updates from Microsoft.** The IE vulnerability, which was first reported in late November, allows a browser to display one URL in the address bar while the page being viewed is actually hosted elsewhere, making the user more susceptible to ruses like "phishing." However, Openwares' first fix, which worked by filtering out any URLs containing suspicious characters, would work only with addresses that had less than 256 bytes. Larger addresses produced a buffer overflow. **Microsoft has still not released a fix for the IE problem** or given any indication as to when one might be available.

Source: [http://news.com.com/2100-1002\\_3-5130708.html?tag=nefd\\_top](http://news.com.com/2100-1002_3-5130708.html?tag=nefd_top)

### Internet Alert Dashboard



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## General Sector

23. *December 22, CBC News* — **Nuclear inspectors heading to Libya.** The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog will head to Libya next week to begin assessing the country's weapons program. Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, also said its inspections could start next week. **The move follows Libya's agreement on Friday to allow spot inspections of its nuclear activities to confirm that it's not producing banned weapons. Libya said it had been working on developing weapons of mass destruction, but after consultations with the U.S. and Great Britain, it decided to give up its plans.** Libya, under the leadership of Colonel Moammar Gadhafi, has faced international sanctions because of allegations that it sponsors terrorism. The U.S. has kept Libya on its list of nations that sponsor terrorism. The UN Security Council voted to abolish its sanctions on Libya in

September, after Libya agreed to pay compensation to families of the Lockerbie bombing. Pan Am Flight 103 from London to New York exploded over the Scottish town of Lockerbie on December 21, 1988, killing 259 people on the plane and 11 on the ground.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/stories/2003/12/22/libya031222>

24. *December 22, Associated Press* — **Philippines mudslides, floods kill 127.** Rescuers counted at least 127 dead and searched for dozens more missing Monday, December 22, from devastating weekend mudslides in the eastern and southern Philippines, as sporadic rains and strong sea waves hampered recovery efforts. **Authorities blamed illegal logging for the disaster, which was triggered by six days of pounding rains in provinces near the Pacific Ocean late Friday to early Saturday.** Leyte province's Gov. Rosette Lerias said the rainfall saturated the eroded ground so much that it "exploded," sending tons of mud and debris down hillsides and onto homes as villagers slept. In a separate disaster, also in the southern Philippines, rescuers searched for a ferry not heard of since it radioed that it was sinking at sea with 75 people aboard on Sunday. The National Disaster Coordinating Council also reported four people drowned in floodwaters and 14 killed in landslides in the northeastern part of the main southern island of Mindanao, close to Leyte, over the weekend. Close to 20,000 people were evacuated. **The weather bureau said Friday's rainfall was 21.89 inches — more than the average for the whole month of December.**

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,106355,00.html>

25. *December 22, Associated Press* — **Earthquake shakes Central, Southern California.** An earthquake rocked the Central Coast of California on Monday, December 22. It was felt 185 miles southeast in Los Angeles. An equal distance north in San Francisco it rocked the 20-story federal courthouse. **The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gave it a preliminary magnitude of 6.5 and said it was centered north of the coastal town of Cambria. Three people were confirmed dead by early afternoon.** The site is only a few miles from San Simeon, William Randolph Hearst's castle, which was evacuated but reported no major damage. A block of old buildings in Paso Robles collapsed onto their first floors, police Sgt. Bob Adams said. **The quake struck on a series of faults that run parallel to the San Andreas Fault,** said Lucy Jones, scientist in charge of the USGS office in Pasadena. The quake likely ruptured along roughly 20 miles of a yet-unknown fault, Jones said. The agency listed several smaller aftershocks, the largest magnitude 4.7, and expects more in the next couple of days. John Nelson of Pacific Gas and Electric said **approximately 10,000 homes and businesses were without power in the San Luis Obispo area. The utility reported no major damage at its Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant;** it was being checked for minor damage. Another utility, **Duke Energy, said there was no substantive damage at its two coastal power plants, Morro Bay and Moss Landing.** Additional information is available on the USGS Website:

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/recenteqsUS/Quakes/nc40148755.htm>

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2003/12/22/national1451EST0583.DTL>

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## **DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information**

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

**DHS/IAIP Warnings** – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

**DHS/IAIP Publications** – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

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